

## **December 6th is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1989, the lives of 14 feminists were abruptly ended as a lone gunman opened fire upon them at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal. Since then, we have marked this anniversary with remembrance, in hope that from this tragedy, we could begin to build a better world by addressing the issue of violence against women in our society.

Gender-based violence is a symptom of underlying systemic factors of oppression that we need to continue addressing in our homes, workplaces, and society.

Women continue to experience alarming rates of violence in their own homes. In the North, domestic violence is 5 times the national average.

In the workplace, women are likely to suffer from violence and harassment at a much higher rate than their male counterparts. The past decade has seen a 40% increase in workplace violence.

In society, women are still fighting against inequity and discriminatory social policies that limit their full participation. Women of colour, Aboriginal women, and women with disabilities face additional barriers that affect their standard of living, access to resources, and quality of life.

We need to continue our efforts to fight against gender-based violence, and create an equitable society that provides safety and security for all its members. Joining the local Women's Committee, writing letters to the editor, lobbying your Member of Parliament, and supporting local women's programs are all examples of ways you can participate in social change.

As we stand in remembrance on December 6<sup>th</sup> for the women we have lost to violence, let us also renew our commitment to create a better world for girls and women. In doing so, we will have created a better world for everyone.